

1 *Docket No. 7032*  
2 *Joint Petition of Vermont Electric Power*  
3 *Company, Inc., Green Mountain Power*  
4 *Corporation and the Town of Stowe Electric*  
5 *Department for a certificate of public good,*  
6 *pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 248, authorizing the*  
7 *so-called Lamoille County 115 kV Project,*  
8 *consisting of the construction of a transmission line*  
9 *from Stowe to Duxbury, Vermont, and*  
10 *accompanying facilities*

11  
12  
13 **GREGG HILL RESIDENTS SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY**  
14 **BY ELLEN E. DORSEY LILLIS**  
15  
16

17 Q. Please state your name, address, and qualifications.

18 A. My name is Ellen Dorsey Lillis. I reside at 2018 Gregg Hill Road. My husband  
19 Matthew and I are one of the nine landowners known in PSB Docket 7032 as the  
20 Gregg Hill Residents. I have a BA in Economics and Mathematics from Boston  
21 College and an EdM from Harvard University. I am a licensed in the state of  
22 Vermont to teach grades 7-12 Mathematics. I am an avid hiker, runner,  
23 snowshoer and canoeist who spends an average of three to four days per week  
24 using the Waterbury Reservoir area of the Mt. Mansfield State Forest for outdoor  
25 recreation.

26  
27 Q. Have you testified before this board before?

28 A. No.

29  
30 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

1 A. To describe how the Gregg Hill Residents proposed reroute would improve the  
2 Waterbury Reservoir experience for those hiking to Sunbather's Rock when  
3 compared to VELCO's proposed 115kV line and the existing 34.5 kV line.  
4

5 Q. What is Sunbather's Rock?

6 A. In her April 11, 2005 direct testimony, Susan K. Bulmer briefly described the area  
7 as a "very popular, though informal, swimming area located on the north shore of  
8 the east arm (of the Waterbury Reservoir) opposite the Blush Hill boat launch  
9 area in the area of the crossing of the proposed transmission lines. The site...  
10 consists of a large rock outcrop which is accessed by boat or trail off of Gregg  
11 Hill Road."  
12

13 I agree with that description and add that the trail and site are most popular for  
14 swimming in the summer (especially in years when the Reservoir is at its normal  
15 water level), but are enjoyed year round drawing many hikers, skiers and  
16 snowshoers.  
17

18 Q. How does one access this popular spot by foot?  
19

20 A. Sunbather's Rock is accessible from Gregg Hill Road via a trail approximately  
21 one-half mile in length. The head of this trail is located at the spot where the  
22 existing 34.5 kV line (and where VELCO's proposed upgrade) first intersects  
23 Gregg Hill Road. Visitors park at a bend in the road immediately adjacent to the  
24 power line corridor. From the parking area, visitors have a clear view of the  
25 power line corridor for several hundred feet to the north along Gregg Hill Road.  
26

27 Q. Please describe the trail.

28 A. The trail leaves the parking area, crosses the existing power line corridor and  
29 enters the woods to the west. In this area, the existing clearing is overgrown with  
30 young poplar trees and dense brush. The trail takes a sharp left turn and parallels

1 the power line corridor for several hundred feet. Here, the trail lies in evergreen  
2 woods skirting the existing power line, which remains in sight at all times. At  
3 existing pole number 57, there is a break in the vegetation allowing a clear view  
4 of the pole. Then the trail takes a sharp right and descends a steep hill leading  
5 away from the corridor to the west. The trail takes a left and rolls through a stand  
6 of mature Eastern White Pines before climbing steeply to a large primitive  
7 camping site through which the trail leads south to Sunbather's Rock.

8  
9 From Sunbather's Rock, there are views to the west of Bolton Mountain, to the  
10 south of Blush Hill, and to the east of the Worcester Mountains. Also, to the east  
11 there is a clear view of the power line crossing the reservoir.

12  
13 Q. How would VELCO's proposed upgrade affect the Sunbather's Rock trail  
14 experience?

15 A. Power lines and poles would dominate the trailhead and parking area where  
16 several poles are already visible to the north and south. The lines and poles would  
17 be more visible for much of the first half of the hike until the trail turns westward,  
18 away from the corridor. The increased height of the 115 kV poles would further  
19 amplify the existing disharmony between the power lines and the surrounding  
20 natural environment.

21  
22 Q. How would the Gregg Hill Residents' proposed reroute affect the Sunbather's  
23 Rock trail experience?

24 A. Visitors driving to the trailhead from the south entrance to Gregg Hill Road would  
25 cross a 100-foot power line corridor a few hundred feet before the trailhead.  
26 From the trailhead the visual impact of the power lines would be reduced  
27 dramatically. The trail would not cross the corridor and it no longer would run  
28 parallel to corridor. The Gregg Hill Residents' proposed route would turn east  
29 away from the trail south of current pole number 57. Since this pole sits at the top  
30 of a steep downward slope, the proposed reroute would be significantly lower

1           than the trail and would not intersect it at all. Therefore, it is unlikely that trail  
2           users would notice the lines.

3

4           From the perspective of users of this popular trail, the aesthetic impact of the  
5           power lines would be improved, thus improving the wilderness experience.

6

7    Q.     Would the proposed Gregg Hill Residents reroute increase the visible impact of  
8           the power lines from Sunbather's rock itself?

9    A.     Clearly the Waterbury Reservoir crossing, unchanged by the Gregg Hill Residents  
10          reroute, would remain highly visible from Sunbather's Rock. Based on my visits  
11          to the Rock, I do not believe that the proposed reroute would increase the  
12          visibility of the line. However, to my knowledge no study by engineers has been  
13          done to corroborate this.

14

15   Q.     Does this conclude your testimony?

16   A.     Yes.

17

18

19   By \_\_\_\_\_

20   Ellen E. Dorsey Lillis

21   A Gregg Hill Resident